

2 Samuel 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

Analysis

And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Kindness to Mephibosheth, emphasizing covenant faithfulness, grace. David's kindness to Mephibosheth illustrates chesed (תּוֹדָה, covenant faithfulness/loyal love). This grace shown to Jonathan's crippled son demonstrates covenant loyalty transcending political expedience. The narrative foreshadows God's grace toward spiritually crippled humanity. Cross-references to David and Jonathan's covenant (1 Samuel 18:3, 20:14-17) and New Testament grace themes enrich understanding.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 9 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding covenant faithfulness, grace provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and

expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of covenant faithfulness, grace?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

שָׁאַל לְבִית אִישׁ עַד בְּמִלְחָמָה לֹא פָּסַר בְּמִלְחָמָה
said And the king Is there not yet any of the house of Saul
H559 H4428 H657 H5750 H376 H1004 H7586

צִיבָא לֹא מִשְׁאַל יְמִינָה עַמְּדָה וְאַמְּשָׁה
that I may shew the kindness of God said unto him And Ziba
H6213 H5973 H2617 H430 H559 H6717

בְּגָלִים: נִכְה לִיהוֹנֶת אֶל בְּמִלְחָמָה לֹא
H413 And the king H5750 hath yet a son Jonathan which is lame on his feet
H4428 H1121 H3083 H5223 H7272

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 4:4 (Parallel theme): And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

Luke 6:36 (Parallel theme): Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

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